



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

December 2005



2005 Wetlands Reserve Program

Customer Focus

Walker Farm Salt Marsh Restoration Project.

Walker Farm Marsh is a historic 16-acre salt marsh located and owned by the Town of Barrington. A number of roads and dam structures restricted the amount of salt water that entered the marsh. Restricted tidal flow, decreased salinity in the marsh, and impoundment of open water resulted in the invasion of the Common Reed, *Phragmites australis*, an invasive plant.

Save The Bay got NRCS involved with restoring the marsh. NRCS provided funding for the construction of the restoration project through the Wetlands Reserve Program. Other partners involved; the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and Ducks Unlimited.

The restoration project included modification of the three existing structures. The southern structure included water control structures to increase tidal flow. The structure under the access road was increased in size to allow for more tidal flow into the marsh interior. The former farm roads were removed from the marsh surface to improve tidal circulation. The northern restrictions include a water control structure. Analysis by URI, the marsh sediment determined that a large amount of sediment would be lost from the marsh if the tidal restoration was removed completely. To address the potential loss of marsh substrate, the northern was designed with a water control structure to limit the initial tidal flow into the marsh. As the marsh revegetates, the water control structure can be modified to allow for greater tidal flow. The marsh spoils was placed in the upland and planted with a conservation mix. A water control structure management plan was developed during the first year of the project based on monitoring trials during spring low and high tides. The water control structures will be maintained by the Town of Barrington.

Rhode Island Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program is designed to restore and protect wetlands on private property. It is an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal agricultural land. WRP also serves to provide fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, protect biological diversity and provide recreational opportunities.

Accomplishments

NRCS continued the design and planning of several other projects in 2005 including Jacobs Point salt marsh meadow restoration project in Town of Warren.

Outlook

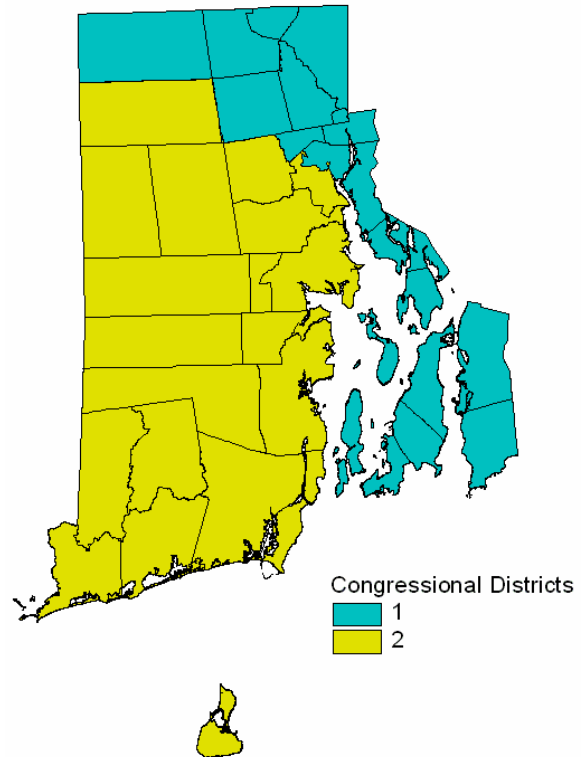
The outlook for 2006 is to continue seeking new projects and finishing prior projects.

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Rhode Island's WRP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Rhode Island WRP Dollars and Contracts (includes inactive or cancelled contracts)

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2005		Cumulative Total (97-05)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	500,000	2	595,000	4
District 2			330,991	3
State Totals	500,000	2	925,991	7

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